

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 26-34 are pending in this application. Claims 26-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Specifically, it was noted that in claim 26, line 27, the recitation to “the information providing apparatus” did not have clear antecedent basis. In reply applicants note claim 26, at lines 4-5 refers to “said information transmitted by an information providing apparatus”. That phrase is believed to provide proper antecedent basis for the subsequently recited “the information providing apparatus” at line 26. Thereby, claim 26 is believed to be proper under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. For similar reasons claims 33 and 34 are believed to be proper under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 26-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 5,764,736 to Shachar et al. (herein “Shachar”) in view of U.S. patent 6,512,525 to Capps et al. (herein “Capps”) in further view of Official Notice. That rejection is traversed as discussed next.

Initially, applicants traverse the position for which Official Notice was taken and request that prior art be cited for that position, and it further be explained how such prior art is properly combinable with Shachar in view of Capps.

Each of independent claims 26, 33, and 34 is amended by the present response to clarify that the confirmation window “displays a mark that is appended to a lowest charge telephone number”. With reference to Figure 5 in the present specification as a non-limiting example, a mark 32 can be provided on a list of telephone numbers in a confirmation window 31, and that mark 32 indicates a lowest charge telephone number. Applicants also note the discussion in the present specification at page 39, lines 11-17 disclosing the use of such a mark 32.

Applicants respectfully submit neither Shachar nor Capps disclose or suggest the use of such a mark to indicate a lowest charge telephone number, and thus amended independent claims 26, 33, and 34, and the claims dependent therefrom, patentably distinguish over Shachar in view of Capps and further in view of Official Notice.

Moreover, applicants note in the previous response the claims were amended to further recite a receiver received information transmitted by an information providing apparatus that included a designation “indicating whether the predetermined apparatus is any one of a WWW server, a FAX-information apparatus, a computer, and a telephone apparatus”. In that context the predetermined apparatus is an apparatus that has a telephone number assigned to a line connected thereto. Those features are believed to distinguish over the applied art.

With respect to the above-noted features, the claims are directed to an information processing apparatus or method in which a receiver receives information transmitted by an information providing apparatus. That information includes a telephone number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus and a designation of a communication method defining a communication with the predetermined apparatus. As recited in the claims “the designation indicating whether the predetermined apparatus is any one of a WWW server, a FAX-information apparatus, a computer, or a telephone apparatus”. The claims also recite utilizing that designation to establish a communication link with the predetermined apparatus. Specifically the claims recite the communication controller or controlling operation “determines whether the designation indicates the WWW server, the FAX-information apparatus, the computer, and the telephone apparatus”. The claims also recite the connection in the second communication mode is made “with a protocol corresponding to the determined designation”.

According to the above-noted features recited in the claims, a designation of a communication method can indicate several of different communications methods depending on whether the predetermined apparatus to communicate with is any one of a WWW server, a FAX-information apparatus, a computer, or a telephone apparatus. Even more particularly, with reference to Figure 6A in the present specification, in the claimed invention operations such as shown in steps S22-S24, S27-S30, and S33 are executed. Specifically, in steps S22-S25 and S27 it is determined whether the designation indicates the communication partner is a WWW server, a FAX-information apparatus, a computer, or a telephone apparatus. If Yes in any of those steps S22-S24 and S27, then the operation proceeds to a respective of steps S28-S30 and S33 in which an appropriate communication protocol is designated based on whether the designation indicates communication to a WWW server, a FAX apparatus, a computer, or a telephone apparatus.

The above-noted features recited in the claims are believed to distinguish over the prior art.

The primary reference to Shachar notes a communication in which information received can indicate an alternative network address.¹ However, Shachar does not disclose or suggest the features clarified in the claims of the designation indicating whether the predetermined apparatus is any one of a “WWW server, a FAX information apparatus, a computer, and a telephone apparatus.” Further, Shachar does not disclose or suggest any operation such as shown for example in steps S21-S24, and S27, and S28-S30 and S33 in which the designation indicates communication in any of the WWW server, FAX apparatus, computer, or telephone apparatus, and then selects appropriate communication protocols based on whether the predetermined apparatus is any one of the WWW server, the FAX-information apparatus, the computer, or the telephone apparatus.

¹ See for example Shachar at column 13, lines 16 *et seq.*

With respect to the above-noted feature the outstanding Office Action indicates Shachar discloses such a designation at column 9, lines 34-60. However, applicants respectfully submit that disclosure in Shachar is not directed to the same features as claimed.

More particularly, at column 9, lines 34-60 Shachar indicates different tags 230 that can form part of an electronic business card 200, see for example Figure 2 in Shachar. However, those tags 230 are part of an electronic business card, and do not provide a designation of a predetermined apparatus connected to a line with an assigned telephone number. That is, in the claim the designation indicates whether such a predetermined apparatus assigned to a line with a telephone number is a WWW server, a FAX-information apparatus, a computer, or a telephone apparatus. That information can also be used for establishing a communication link. The tags 230 in Shachar are general tags for a distributor of the electronic business card 200, and do not indicate any specific apparatus connected to a line with an assigned telephone number. Thereby, that indication in Shachar of tags 230 is not believed to be directed to the above-noted claim features, and for such further reasons the claims as written are believed to clearly distinguish over Shachar.

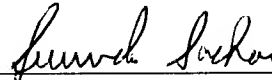
Moreover, no teachings in Capps or the Official Notice were cited with respect to the above-noted features, and no teachings in Capps or the Official Notice are believed to cure the above-noted deficiencies in Shachar.

Thereby, in view of the present response applicants respectfully submit the claims as currently written distinguish over the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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